

Celebrating one year with DCBS

This month, I celebrate my first anniversary as DCBS Commissioner and one year serving the children, adults and families of the Commonwealth alongside you. It has been a year of finding new joys, seeing stark realities and most importantly, building strong and reciprocally supportive relationships. Even before my appointment started July 1,



From the Commissioner

Read the story [here](#)

New leadership staff will expand 21st century focus on health equity

Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub has announced two new leadership staff in the Commissioner's Office who will enable progress in creating a 21st Century DCBS. Welcome to Dr. Brandy Kelly Pryor, PhD, and Trinidad Jackson, PhD(c), MS, MPH. They will advise DCBS on public health, training, equity and poverty issues.



Dr. Brandy Kelly Pryor



Trinidad Jackson

Read the story [here](#)

Statewide Prevention Collaborative to drive upstream prevention efforts

A statewide Prevention Collaborative has been formed as part of the Department's ongoing commitment to move upstream to support and expand primary and secondary prevention efforts across the state. The Prevention Collaborative is comprised of key community partners, service providers, and stakeholders from across the state, including birth parents and young people with lived expertise with the child welfare



Family Children and Youth

system. Implementation of the requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act has proven very

Read the story [here](#)



Shelley Jenkins



Angela Lane

Jenkins, Lane named heroes

Congratulations to the latest DCBS Superhero winners, Shelley Jenkins of The Lakes Service Region and Angela Lane of the Two Rivers Service Region!

Read the story [here](#)

Regions mark successes with CQI



Melissa McGowan
CQI Specialist,
Cumberland



Eddie White
CQI Specialist, Cumberland,
Southern Bluegrass



James Persley
CQI Specialist,
Southern Bluegrass



Denita Moore
CQI Specialist,
Salt River Trail

The CQI Redesign continues to successfully forge forward! Following the statewide forums, staff have been further supported in the work of continuous quality improvement.

Read on for highlights of some tangible examples occurring throughout the service regions!

[Read the story here](#)



Family Support Director Jason Dunn, right, and Community Action Kentucky Executive Director Roger McCann presented on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to the Natural Resources & Energy Committee on July 8.

DCBS legislative highlights

The Capitol Annex reopened to the public on July 1, 2021, and the Department began transitioning to a hybrid of attending legislative committee meetings in person at the Annex and virtually through Zoom.

On July 7, Commissioner Marta Miranda-Straub and Deputy Commissioner Lesa Dennis presented on “Building Capacity to Serve” to the Budget Review on Human Resources Subcommittee, regarding the Commissioner’s request and Governor’s recommendation to the General Assembly to fund more social worker positions and training.

On July 8, Family Support Director Jason Dunn and Community Action Kentucky, Inc., Executive Director Roger McCann presented on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to the Natural Resources & Energy Committee.

[Read the story here](#)

OCA Gateway is path to giving for all staff

For staff who want a tangible way to help children in out of home care and their families, the starting point is just a few keyboard clicks away. DCBS partner Orphan Care Alliance (OCA) - nonprofit faith-based agency that supports Kentucky’s foster and adoptive community - coordinates the OCA Gateway, an online portal with the goal of connecting generous Kentuckians to the needs of vulnerable children and families in their communities. It’s secure, safe and locally targeted.

OCA President and Executive Director Darren Washausen said the Gateway is an easy-to-use feature that allows anyone to help families involved in the

[Read the story here](#)



Spotlight on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



On June 15, DCBS staff and other leaders joined at the Capitol grounds to place purple flags as public recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

[Read the story here](#)



Gates Toyota bike drive treats foster children in Southern Bluegrass

Recently our Southern Bluegrass Service Region partnered with Gates Toyota in Richmond for the 6th Annual Bike Drive to provide about 80 new bicycles and helmets to children in out of home care. This event was coordinated and organized by regional recruitment and certification unit staff, Acting Family Services Office Supervisor Janie Rogers and Service Region Clinical Associate Terri Combs. Special thanks to Roger Bell and Charlie Johnson with Toyota for ensuring all the bicycles were assembled safely. The children were so thrilled when they arrived at the dealership! Thank you Gates Toyota!

[Read entire story here](#)



New visitation rooms open at L&N offices

Thanks to thriving partnerships, two new visitation rooms opened at the Jefferson Region's L and N Building on July 1.

DCBS collaborated on the second-floor rooms, a work in progress since this March, with WLKY Wednesday's Child Inc. and Southeast Christian Church. Previously there was just one visitation room. And everything in the rooms – from furniture and carpets to books to board games and creative play stations – is brand new and easy to clean.

The rooms are secure and available to DCBS caseworkers and social service aides to supervise visits during regular

Read the story [here](#)

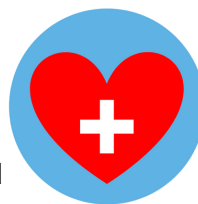


Lark program supports those with pre-diabetes

For staff with pre-diabetes, Lark can help. It's part of the Kentucky Employees Health Plan's LivingWell program to promote wellness among members.

Lark is a 12-month interactive program designed to help Kentucky Employees Health Plan's (KEHP) members make small, meaningful lifestyle changes through coaching and education that will prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. The Lark program has demonstrated that 5 percent weight loss through changes in diet and exercise can reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58 percent – or over 71 percent for those age 60 and older.

Focus areas include:



Health

Living ➔ **Well**



- Weight Loss;
- Physical activity;
- Nutrition counseling;
- Sleep; and
- Stress management

Lark is free as part of KEHP benefits. It includes access to the mobile app, and a wireless connected scale.

Learn about Lark [here](#).